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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9865

INFO DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 3 TEGUCIGALPA 1657

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1629, 1938

1. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF THE NEWLY NAMED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND PROVIDES SUMMARY BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

A) MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE - COLONEL ALONSO FLORES GUERRA: FLORES HAS BEEN MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1965. HE HAS ALSO BEEN SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (1956). DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (1958), AND SUB-SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (1959). HE WAS BORN IN NACAOME, VALLE, HONDURAS ON JANUARY 26, 1926 AND ENTERED THE HONDURAN ARMY IN 1940. HE IS MARRIED TO VICTORIA SOTO DE FLORES AND HAS AT LEAST SEVEN CHILDREN. HE RECEIVED AN ECONOMICS DEGREE FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, PROBABLY IN 1957. HE ATTENDED COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF CONFIDENTIAL

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COURSE IN PANAMA AND COMPLETED THE INTERAMERICAN COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE COURSE AT THE ARGENTINE WAR COLLEGE. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE REMAINED OUTSIDE OF HONDURAS FOR SUCH AN EXTENDED PERIOD FOR POLITICAL REASONS, I.E., HE APPARENTLY OPPOSED GENERAL LOPEZ' INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS. FLORES IS THOUGHT TO BE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.:

B) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS - VIRGILIO ROBERTO GALVEZ MADRID: GALVEZ HAS HAD A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATIC CAREER. HE HAS BEEN A DELEGAT TO MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WAS MINISTER TO ECUADOR AND AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR. HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR IN 1965 AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE 1969 WAR. HE IS CONSIDERED THE "SALVADORAN EXPERT" IN THE MINISTRY, SINCE 1969, HE HAS BEEN CONSELOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ABSENT FROM THE COUNTRY. HE WAS BORN IN SANTA BARBARA, HONDURAS ON APRIL 20, 1911. HE IS MARRIED TO LAURA BUENO DE GALVEZ AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF LEON, NICARAGUA AND CENTRAL UNIVERSITY IN TEGUCIGALPA. HE IS A MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD NATIONALIST BUT IS NOT AN ACTIVE PARTY MEMBER. HE IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S., AND IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO POLOFF:

C) MINISTRY OF DEFENSE - COLONEL MARIO CHINCHILLA CARCAMO: COLONEL CHINCHILLA IS FORMER DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE HONDURAN AIR FORCE (1965-1975). HE WAS BORN IN LA CEIBA, ATLANTIDA, HONDURAS NOVEMBER 17, 1928. HE ENTERED THE AVIATION SCHOOL IN 1947 AND WAS COMMISSIONED A 2ND LIEUTENANT IN 1949. HE WAS TEMPORARY AIR ATTACHE TO THE U.S. (1956) AND CHIEF OF OPERATIONS OF THE AIR FORCE (1956-1965). HE IS CONSIDERED THE BEST PILOT IN THE AIR FORCE AND HAS PILOTED MOST PRESIDENTIAL AND VIP FLIGHTS. HE FINSIHED SECONDARY SCHOOL (ACCOUNTING) AND HAS STUDIED ACCOUNTING PART-TIME AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. HE IS MARRIED TO ADALGICIA GUERRA DE CHINCHILLA AND THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN. CHINCHILLA IS REGARDED AS VERY CAPABLE. HE IS FRIENDLY TO THE U.S., AND HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. HE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO BOTH DAO AND MILGP OFFICERS. CHINCHILLA SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH; CONFIDENTIAL

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D) MINISTRY OF EDUCTION - LIDIA WILLIAMS DE ARIAS:
LITTLE SPECIFIC BIO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE
WIDOWED MRS. ARIAS. SHE IS 56 YEARS OLD AND IS A LONGTIME SCHOOL TEACHER. SHE WAS ELECTED MAYOR OF CHOLUTECA
IN 1971 AND SERVED UNTIL 1974. HER ADMINISTRATION WAS
REPORTED TO BE BOTH EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC. MRS. ARIAS WAS
BORN INTO A WELL-KNOWN NATIONALIST PARTY FAMILY. SHE IS
WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO AID OFFICERS WHO REGARD HER AS
BEING NOT STRONGLY AFFILIATED TO A POLITICAL PARTY BUT AS
BEING A HARD-NOSED, PRAGMATIC PROFESSIONAL. THESE OFFICERS
BELIEVE HER CAPACITY AND ENERGY, PLUS HER EXPERIENCE IN
TEACHING, INDICATE SHE WILL BE A COMPETENT MINISTER OF EDUCATION. SHE IS THE AUNT OF LT.COLONEL JUAN ARIAS, COMMANDER

OF THE LA CEIBA MILITARY ZONE;

E) MINISTRY OF FINANCE - PORFIRIO ZAVALA SANDOVAL: EMBASSY HAS LITTLE BIO DATA ON ZAVALA. BEFORE BEING NAMED MINISTER HE WAS ASSISTANT MAKNAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK. BEFORE THAT, HE WAS SUPERINTENDENT OF BANKS FOR THE CENTRAL BANK AND HAS HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD BANK. HE HAS A SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS AND UNIVERSITY STUDIES AT CENTRAL AMERICAN BANKING SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA. HE IS 39 YEARS OLD AND WAS BORN IN MINAS DE ORO, COMAYAGUA, HONDURAS. HE IS MARRIED TO ALBA INEZ LOPEZ DE ZAVALA AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. ZAVALA IS KNOWN TO ECOMOFF BUT HAS HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH MISSION OFFICERS. HE IS NOT KNOWN AS PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO U.S. BUT IS WELL THOUGHT OF IN U.S. BANKS HERE WHICH DEALT WITH HIM AS A CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL;

F) MINISTRY OF ECONOMY - CAPTAIN ARMANDO SAN MARTIN CANANA: SAN MARTIN IS A WELL-KNOWN BUSINESSMAN WITH VARIED EXPERIENCE WHO, BEFORE BEING NAMED MINISTER, WAS A DIRECTOR OF BANCHASA (BANK). SAN MARTIN WAS BORN IN SANTA ROSA DE COPAN APRIL 17, 1921. HE GRADUATED FROM THE SCHOOL OF

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9866

INFO WASHDC PRIORITY

WASHDC PRIORITY 1578

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

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AVIATION IN 1940. HE IS MARRIED TO DORIS AIDA BENDORIA DE SAN MARTIN AND THEY HAVE SIX CHILDREN. AMONG THE POSITIONS HELD BY SAN MARTIN ARE: ASSISTANT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE, PRESIDENT OF TACA INTERNA-

TIONAL (AIRLINE), PRESIDENT OF THE BANCO LA CAPITALIZADORA HONDURENA, DIRECTOR OF AHORRA HONDURENO (INSURANCE), PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF MARMOLERIA COLBRA (MARBLE FACTORY), DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK AND DIRECTOR OF THE HONDURAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (BANAFOM). SAN MARTIN IS VERY WELL TRAVELLED, HAVING VISITED THE U.S., THE FAR EAST, EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. SAN MARTIN IS WELL THOUGHT OF IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO ECOMOFFS. HE IS INTELLIGENT AND PROGRESSIVE, AS WELL AS STRONG MINDED AND UNEMOTIONAL. ALTHOUGH NO LONGER AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE AIRFORCE, HE CONTINUES TO USE THE TITLE OF CAPTAIN AND HIS FRIENDS AFFECTIONATELY REFER TO HIM AS "CAPPIE;

G) MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS - HERMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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APARICIO VELASQUES: APARICIO WAS BORN IN TEGUCIGALPA FEBRUARY 8, 1936 AND IS MARRIED TO BLANCA MILLA DE APARICIO. THE COUPLE HAS THREE CHILDREN. APARICIO WAS TRAINED AS AN ENGINEER AT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND, BEFORE BECOMING ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS IN 1974, WAS DIRECTOR OF ROADS. APARICIO IS VIEWED AS TECHNICALLY COMPETENT AND APOLITICAL. HE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE AID DIRECTOR WHO REGARDS HIM AS ONE OF THE MOST COOPERATIVE OF THE LOEPZ MINISTERS. HE WAS THE PRIMARY HONDURAN OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN THE RECENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT WHICH WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN NORTH ELECTRIC (OHIO) AND OKI (JAPAN);

H) MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH - DR. ENRIQUE AGUILAR PAZ: AGUILAR IS ONE OF THE HOLD-OVERS FROM THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT. HE HAS AN M.D. FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (1956). AGUILAR WAS BORN IN PESPIRE, CHOLUTECA, HONDURAS FEBRUARY 15, 1931. FOLLOWING HIS GRADUATION FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, HE TOOK POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND TEMPLE UNIVERSITY. HE TAUGHT AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL AND WAS DEAN FROM 1964-1967. HE HAS HELD POSITIONS AT VARIOUS HOSPITALS AND HAS PUBLISHED NUMEROUS ARTICLES. AGUILAR WAS NAMED MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH BY LOPEZ ON DECEMBER 5, 1972, ALTHOUGH NOT AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR, AGUILAR IS A WELL MEANING, FRIENDLY MAN WITH CONSIDERABLE CHARM, HE IS ONE OF THE FEW MINISTERS WHO HAS MADE A PRICATICE OF VISITING MINISTRY OUTPOSTS IN REMOTE AREAS. AGUILAR IS WELL KNOWN TO AID OFFICERS AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE WELL DISPOSED TO THE U.S. IN SPITE OF HIS TEARFUL FAREWELL TO THE CUBAN MEDICAL TEAM THAT ASSISTED FOLLOWING THE HURRICANE, HE IS ESSENTIALLY APOLOTICAL ALTHOUGH PHILOSOPHICALLY LIBERAL AND PROGRESSIVE;

I) MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY - ENRIQUE FLORES VALERIANO: FLORES, VIETUALLY UNKNOWN TO THE EMBASSY, IS 39 AND IS AN EX-SUPREME COURT JUSTICE. HE GRADUATED WITH A LAW

DEGREE FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND SERVED TWO TIMES AS DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL. HE WAS NAMED TO THE SUPREME COURT IN 1971 AS A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT:

J) MINISTER OF NATIONAL RESOURCES - FERNANDO DANIEL MONTES CONFIDENTIAL

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MATAMOROS: MONTES, UNTIL BEING NAMED MINISTER, WAS DIRECTOR OF THE HONDURAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (FUNHDESA). MONTES WAS BORN IN TEGUCIGALPA SEPTEMBER 20, 1932 AND IS MARRIED TO LILA ABASTIDA DE MONTES (1957). THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN. MONTES GRADUATED FROM TEXAS A&M (1956) WITH A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS. HE IS ALSO A GRADUATE IN LEGAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (1959). MONTES WORKED WITH THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (BANAFOM) FROM 1956-1957, FOR HONDURAS GAS IN 1959, AND THEN RETURNED TO BANAFOM, IN BANAFOM, HE SPECIALIZED IN COFFEE PROBLEMS. AFTER LEAVING THE BANK, HE HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS IN THE AGENCIES OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE RADIO SHCOOLS. HE ASSUMED THE DIRECTOR-SHIP OF FUNHDESA IN 1970. ALTHOUGH MONTES HAS AVOIDED A DIRECT LINK WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ORGANI-ZATION OF HONDURAS, HE HAS BOTH ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONAL LINKS WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PARTY. HE HAS CLEARLY EMERGED AS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND CAPABLE LEADER IN THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRAT/SCOIAL CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFTEN EMPLOYS ANTI-U.S. RHETORIC, MONTES HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED THIS, HE HAS MAIN-TAINED GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH AID AND STATE OFFICERS ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO THE OLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY;

K) SUPERIOR PLANNING COUNCIL - ARTURO CORLETO MOREIRA (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR): CORLETO HAS RECENTLY SERVED AS A SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE. HE WAS BORN IN COMAYAGUA, HONDURAS ON MAY 2, 1938. HE GRADUATED FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN ECONOMICS IN 1958 AND TOOK SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN HOUSING (BOGOTA, COLOMBIA - 1959), BANK ADMINISTRATION (ROME - 1960-1961), AND PUBLIC FINANCE (HARVARD-1964-1965). HE HAS HELD POSITONS IN THE CENTRAL BANK, THE GOH HOUSING INSTITUTE (INVA), THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND THE FINANCE MINISTRY. FROM 1967-1974, HAS WAS IN PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISOR FOR CENTRAL AMERICA WITH THE OAS AND BID. IN 1974, HE SERVED AS ADVISOR TO MINFIN ACOSTA. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ITALIAN. HE IS REGARDED AS INTELLIGNET AND FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES;

L) NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) - LT. COLONEL JOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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MARIO MALDONADO MUNEZ (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR): MALDONADO WAS NAMED INA DIRECTOR IN FEBRUARY 1975, TO ADMINISTER THE NEW GOH AGRARIAN REFORM LAW. THE POSITION WAS RAISED TO CABINET RANK BY THE NEW AGRARIAN REFORM DECREE. MALDONADO (WHO GOES BY MARIO, NOT JOSE) WAS BORN NOVEMBER 3, 1940

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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

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AND IS MARRIED TO ONDINA ZEPEDA DE MALDONADO. HE ENTERED THE ARMY IN 1957 AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE HONDURAN MILITARY ACADEMY. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF MADRID AND TOOK A COURSE IN AGRARIAN REFORM IN PERU. HE IS ALSO A GRADUATE OF THE PERUVIAN COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL. MALDONADO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY HIS MILITARY CONTEMPORARIES FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO WORK AND HIS ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY. HE HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY THE CONSERVATIVE HONDURAN PRIVATE SECTOR AS A "LEFTIST" AND "PERUVIANIST." THESE COMMENTS RESULT FROM HIS SO FAR VIGOROUS ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW.

- 2. PHOTOGRAPHS AND FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS WILL BE SUBMITTED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY.
- 3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS COMPOSED OF COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS. HOWEVER, SOME, SUCH AS ENRIQUE FLORES VALERIANO AND PORFIRIO ZAVALA CONFIDENTIAL

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SANDOVAL, HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, IN GENERAL, ARE RELATIVELY YOUNG TO ACHIEVE SUCH RANK; PREVIOUS HONDURAN COUNCILS HAVE USUALLY CONTAINED OLDER INDIVIDUALS. THE EARLY SELECTION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS INDICATES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL HAD BEEN CON-SIDERING THE TYPE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THEY WANTED WELL BEFORE REPLACING LOPEZ ON APRIL 22. AND SELECTING PEOPLE TO FILL MINISTERIAL POSITIONS. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL WANTED TO PICK INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD NO PERSONAL FOLLOWING, WHO DID NOT REPRESENT CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL POINTS OF VIEW AND WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER HARMONIOUSLY, A PROBLEM THAT DAMAGED THE EFFICIENCY OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE OLD COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MINFIN ACOSTA, MINLAB FONSECA, MINECON BENNATON AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARTINEZ WERE CONTINUALLY UNDER ATTACK BY CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS AS "POPULISTS" WHO WERE "DESTROYING" THE COUNTRY. THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL MEMBERS APPEAR TO HAVE PICKED THE NEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH THE THOUGHT OF AVOIDING AN ACRIMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE ON THE INITIATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL INTENDS TO MAINTAIN CLOSER CONTROL OVER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAN IN LOPEZ' GOVERNMENT: THE ABSENCE OF OUTSTANDING FIGURES SUCH AS ACOSTA WILL MAKE THIS TASK EASIER. SANCHEZ

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To: STATE NIACT INFO DIA

USIA **GUATEMALA** MANAGUA SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR

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